Abolition of FIPB

32. SHRI S. ANGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FIPB is being abolished;

(b) if so, what alternate steps are being taken to clear foreign investment proposals in a single window system;

(c) whether it is also a fact that FIPB abolition will create problems for quick flow of foreign technology and funds; and

(d) what steps are being taken to bring in more funds through FDI?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) With a view to attracting more FDI, the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy is being constantly reviewed so as to make it both attractive and investor friendly keeping in mind national priorities. The Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) has been set up to facilitate speedy implementation of approved FDI projects.

Export of Food, Fruits, Vegetables From Maharashtra

33. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of quantity of food, fruit and vegetable items exported from Maharashtra during the last five years, itemwise and yearwise separately; and

(b) their effect, availability and price in the internal market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b)The Central Government maintains export data for the country as a whole and, not State-wise.

Legislation for Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights

34. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether legislations pertaining to the trade related intellectual property rights (Trips) are ready for introduction; and

(b) if so, the action taken to protect our plant varieties and substances of the geographical origin in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Necessary legislations pertaining to the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) are under finalisation. These will include legislations to protect plant varieties and substances of geographical origin in India.

Value of Import and Export

†t35. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of import has been higher than the export for the past few years;

(b) if so, the value of import as well as export undertaken in the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(c) whether Government have identified those industrial sectors where import has been higher than the export; and

(d) if so, the names of these sectors together with the value of import as well as export undertaken.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes sir. As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics data, value of imports and exports of India for 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are as under:—

(Value in US$ Million)

Year	Imports	Exports
1996-97	39132	33470
1997-98	41484	35006
1998-99*	41886	33641

*Provisional